

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 11/14/2016 11:45:29 PM
Subject: Save up to 84% on Royal Caribbean Cruises

Dear Mr. Kester,

Let's start today's newsletter with some great **money-saving offers that we've negotiated with Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Oceania, Crystal and Windstar**. They include shipboard credits, which are as good as cash on the ship and can be used toward onboard purchases not covered in the cruise fare, such as shore excursions, purchases in the shops and spa treatments.

Royal Caribbean is offering our customers huge discounts of up to 84% and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin on nearly every voyage in 2017. [See dates and prices.](#)

Celebrity is offering our customers savings of up to 79%. Book an ocean-view cabin or higher on sailings in 2017 and receive a shipboard credit of up to \$250 per cabin, plus choose one of the following perks: 1) an additional shipboard credit of up to \$300 per cabin, 2) free gratuities, 3) a free Classic Beverage Package that includes alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages or 4) unlimited Internet. Book a suite and get all four perks. [See dates and prices.](#)

Oceania has reduced rates by up to 85% for Vacations To Go. Plus enjoy shipboard credits of up to \$1,000 per cabin, free unlimited Internet and your choice of either free drinks, an additional shipboard credit of up to \$800 per cabin or up to four free shore excursions on select sailings. Certain sailings get all offers. [See dates and prices.](#)

Crystal has this exclusive offer for Vacations To Go customers: Pay reduced rates -- for savings of up to 72% -- and receive a shipboard credit of up to \$2,000 per cabin on select cruises. On other departures, choose one of the following amenities: an additional discount of up to \$800 per cabin, an air credit of up to \$1,000 per cabin or a shipboard credit of up to \$1,200 per cabin. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. **Book by December 5.** Your upfront Crystal fare includes gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits and nonalcoholic beverages. [See dates and prices.](#)

Windstar has reduced rates by up to 86% exclusively for Vacations To Go. **Book by December 2.** This line is known for its casually elegant onboard atmosphere and includes a complimentary onshore private event on all cruises: Have lunch at a Sicilian winery or go to a beach party in St. Lucia, for example. [See dates and prices.](#)

As always, these offers are for new bookings only and subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

I receive several hundred cruise-related questions every week from my readers, so today I'd like to share a few inquiries and answers.

Q: My husband and I would like to get away from it all for the holidays and spend Christmas on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. Is it too late to get a great deal?

A: Holiday cruises are extremely popular and sell out quickly. While you might not see as many of the tremendous discounts that we have at other times of the year (of 80% or more, for example), there still are some great Caribbean cruise deals to snap up.

Here are a few tropical departures that spend Christmas at sea. I'd recommend you book soon to get these rates.

An eight-night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas from San Juan, departing December 18,

from \$819 per person -- **save 75%**. ([FastDeal #24331](#))

An eight-night cruise aboard the Norwegian Getaway from Miami, departing December 18, from \$779 per person -- **save 68%**. ([FastDeal #20949](#))

A seven-night cruise aboard Holland America's Zuiderdam from Fort Lauderdale, departing December 21, from \$599 per person -- **save 65%**. ([FastDeal #22835](#))

A seven-night cruise aboard the Carnival Glory from Miami, departing December 24, from \$789 per person - **save 55%**. ([FastDeal #23649](#))

To find more Caribbean departures within a specific date range, use our [Custom Search](#) tool.

Q: I'm thinking about traveling solo on a cruise, but I'm a bit nervous about the prospect. What can I expect?

A: Cruising is very popular with single travelers, and many find that it's easy to mix and mingle with fellow passengers on board. Most cruise lines schedule onboard gatherings for those cruising alone. You also can meet like-minded travelers at organized onboard activities like dance classes, mixology classes and trivia games. The same goes for shore excursions: Spend time with fellow adventurers on a glacier-trekking excursion in Alaska or with other food and wine enthusiasts on a culinary excursion in the Mediterranean, for example. Shore excursions also can provide a measure of safety as you're traveling with a group.

Or, savor your time alone at the spa, on a kids-free deck, in the library or cafe. As a solo cruiser you can set your own schedule and do whatever you wish.

Also consider our hosted singles cruises, where you can travel in style as part of a casual and fun-loving group. These trips are filled with mixers, games, group shore excursions, "single-mingle" dining and more. We currently have 18 departures scheduled through the end of 2017. [Click here](#) to view them.

And here's more good news for solo travelers: Vacations To Go has found or negotiated low or no single supplements on hundreds of cruise departures. To see our Singles Discounts ticker, [click here](#).

Q: If I book my cruise now, and later the rate goes down, will I be able to get the lower price?

A: Cruise prices fluctuate up and down all the time at the cruise lines' discretion, depending on how well a cruise is selling and the number of days remaining until departure. Unfortunately, the decision of whether to allow a customer to re-ticket at a lower rate is never made by Vacations To Go. Every cruise line has a specific policy that it does not deviate from, and we must abide by that policy.

Some lines will adjust the price for your cruise if a lower rate becomes available for the category you've reserved, as long as you have not yet made final payment and still are outside the penalty period, which typically begins 75 to 90 days in advance of departure. Most cruise lines, however, do not adjust the price. Your Vacations To Go cruise counselor will be able to advise you on each cruise line's policy.

Q: As far as choosing a cabin location, are some areas of the ship better than others?

A: This is largely a matter of personal preference and budget. Cruise lines tend to price staterooms according to their location (like real estate). If you want something midship or near the ship's main attractions -- like restaurants, lounges and pools -- you'll typically pay more for it.

If you expect to spend a lot of time in the ship's spa, you might consider booking a stateroom that's at the same end of the ship as the health and wellness center. If a view is important to you, look into ocean-view cabins or, even better, a balcony cabin that allows you to enjoy the fresh air and scenery from your private veranda.

If you are prone to seasickness, I recommend a midship stateroom on a lower deck. This will minimize the amount of motion you feel while the ship is sailing.

If you do have a specific type of stateroom in mind, booking early ensures the best selection of cabin locations. [Click here](#) for links to deck plans and cabin types for more than 240 ships.

Q: I'm on a budget and planning our first cruise. To keep the cost down, friends suggested we book a cabin "guarantee." What does that mean exactly?

A: When you book a guarantee, you are guaranteed to receive at least the minimum cabin category in the type of room you paid for, either inside, ocean-view, balcony or suite. They are not always offered, but when they are, guarantees generally are the least expensive type of reservation you can make, and they are popular because of the possibility that you could be upgraded to a higher category.

However, it's important to understand that an upgrade is not guaranteed. Whether upgrades are ultimately given by the cruise line will be determined by how many people pay for higher category rooms, which removes these accommodations from the inventory available for upgrades. Your odds of getting an upgrade fluctuate by sailing according to how many higher category rooms remain available close to departure and the number of guarantee passengers eligible for an upgrade, among other factors. It is not possible to know the odds of an upgrade at the time of booking.

Plus, with a guarantee, you will not be able to select a specific stateroom. Your cabin will be assigned by the cruise line just before sailing, and no changes are allowed.

Overall, guarantees are a great value, but they're not right for everyone. If you require a higher cabin category or a specific location on the ship or even a particular stateroom, a guarantee may not be your best choice.

Vacations To Go has access to every available cabin on every sailing, and our cruise counselors will be happy to quote the lowest available price for whatever you seek.

Here are the best cruise deals in the next 90 days, organized by port of departure.

Click below for best cruise deals departing US ports:

[Baltimore, MD](#)
[Bayonne, NJ](#)
[Charleston, SC](#)
[Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)
[Galveston, TX](#)
[Honolulu, Oahu, HI](#)
[Jacksonville, FL](#)
[Los Angeles \(Long Beach\), CA](#)
[Los Angeles \(San Pedro\), CA](#)
[Miami, FL](#)
[Mobile, AL](#)
[New Orleans, LA](#)
[New York City, NY \(All ports serving...\)](#)
[Port Canaveral, FL](#)
[San Diego, CA](#)
[San Francisco, CA](#)
[San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)
[St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands](#)
[Tampa, FL](#)

Click below for best cruise deals departing major ports worldwide:

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Antigua
Auckland, New Zealand
Barbados
Barcelona, Spain
Bergen, Norway
Bombay (Mumbai), India
Brisbane, Australia
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cape Town, South Africa
Cartagena, Colombia
Colon, Panama
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Durban, South Africa
Fort-de-France, Martinique
Genoa, Italy
Grand Canary Island, Canary Islands
Hong Kong
Kirkenes, Norway
La Paz, Mexico
La Romana (Casa de Campo), Dominican Republic
Lanzarote, Canary Islands
Lima (Callao), Peru
London, England (All ports serving...)
Marseille, France
Mauritius (Port Louis)
Melbourne, Australia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Panama City, Panama
Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands
Perth (Fremantle), Australia
Phuket, Thailand
Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica
Puerto Limon, Costa Rica
Punta Arenas, Chile
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy
Santiago (Valparaiso), Chile
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Sao Paulo (Santos), Brazil
Savona, Italy
Shanghai, China
Singapore
St. Lucia
St. Maarten
St. Martin
Sydney, Australia
Tenerife, Canary Islands
Ushuaia, Argentina
Venice, Italy

Here are today's **Top 10 Cruises**, brand-new specials from the world's best cruise lines. **Click the FastDeal # for details.**

1) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Miami Nov 27, starting at \$369, save 58%, **FastDeal # 18401**

- 2) **South America**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Buenos Aires Feb 5, starting at \$299, save 90%, [FastDeal # 22428](#)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Holland America, departs Fort Lauderdale Nov 26, oceanview starting at \$399, save 65%, [FastDeal # 12841](#)
- 4) **Australia/New Zealand**, 11 nights on Princess, departs Sydney Jan 21, starting at \$749, save 48%, [FastDeal # 11150](#)
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs Galveston Feb 11, starting at \$409, save 75%, [FastDeal # 15092](#)
- 6) **Bahamas**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs New York Dec 11, starting at \$449, save 77%, [FastDeal # 20564](#)
- 7) **Middle East**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Dubai Feb 6, starting at \$449, [FastDeal # 33584](#)
(Royal Caribbean does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 8) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Miami Jan 21, starting at \$449, save 70%, [FastDeal # 14242](#)
- 9) **Mexico**, 10 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Los Angeles Dec 11, starting at \$2,199, save 69%, [FastDeal # 35748](#)
- 10) **Transatlantic**, 12 nights on Seabourn, departs Lisbon Dec 7, suite starting at \$2,999, save 77%, [FastDeal # 17543](#)

For the best last-minute cruise specials in the next 90 days, please visit our world-famous [90-Day Ticker](#). To search for discounts of up to 82% on cruises departing more than 90 days from now, [click here](#).

To save up to 40% with escorted and independent tours, [click here](#).

For river cruises up to 50% off, [click here](#).

For discounts of up to 50% at hotels and all-inclusive resorts, [click here](#).

For the lowest rates on Africa safaris from budget to luxury in quality, [click here](#).

Once you've found a FASTDEAL, call us toll free at 800-338-4962 (US and Canada) and a cruise counselor will attend to your needs. International customers, please email or call us at +1-713-974-2121.

Please email me your comments, suggestions and questions at alanfox@vacationstogo.com and I will respond the same day.

If you enjoy our newsletter, please forward this email to family and friends.

Sincerely,

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